

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A user client for a communication device, said user client being able to assume a number of different states, said communication device operable to communicate with a remotely located media based network service, the user client comprising: a communication module for causing said communication device to communicate information representing a currently assumed one of said states to a remotely located network system so as to enable control thereof according to said currently assumed state.
2. The user client of claim 1, further comprising said remotely located network system, wherein said remotely located network system is in communication with said user client, and wherein said remotely located media based network service comprises a voicemail system.
3. The user client of claim 1, further comprising said remotely located network system, wherein said remotely located network system is in communication with said user client, and wherein said remotely located media based network service comprises a video based system.
4. The user client of claim 2, wherein a plurality of prerecorded greetings are available for interoperation with said user client at said remotely located network and wherein control of said remotely located media based network comprises selection of one of said greetings in accordance with the currently assumed state, and said control further comprising causing the selected greeting to be played back as a voicemail reply from said remotely located voicemail system to a calling party .
5. The user client of claim 4, wherein said communication module comprises a data messaging protocol.

6. The user client of claim 4, further comprising a module for presenting to a user, upon receipt of an incoming call, an ability to select one of said different states instead of answering said call.

7. The user client of claim 6, wherein said communication module is configurable according to a selected one of said states to communicate said selected state to the voicemail system so as to cause said voicemail to select a greeting corresponding to the selected state .

8. The user client of claim 6, wherein said module is configured such that said communication device is operable to present a plurality of different greetings for user selection therefrom, each state being associated with a different one of said greetings.

9. The user client of claim 4, wherein said user client is switchable substantially at any time between said states, and wherein said communication module is configured to communicate to said voicemail system an exchange of states so as to enable said voicemail system to select a voicemail greeting according to said current state.

10. The user client of claim 4, further comprising a user input for allowing a user to define at least one of said states and to associate a different greeting with each of said states.

11. The user client of claim 10, further comprising a user input for allowing a user to record a greeting for association with one of said states.

12. The user client of claim 4, wherein one of said states is a real time recording mode enterable upon receipt of a call at said communication device, said user client further comprising a user interface for enabling a user to record in real time a new greeting upon receipt of said call.

13. The user client of claim 12, wherein said real time recording mode is configured so as to carry out said recording of the new greeting whilst delaying forwarding of said call from said communication device to said voicemail system.

14. The user client of claim 12, wherein said real time recording mode is configured to forward said recorded greeting as at least one voice packet to said voicemail system for playing as said reply.

15. The user client of claim 14, wherein said communication module is configured to communicate said voicemail greeting, together with control data for said voicemail system, using voice packets.

16. The user client of claim 4, further comprising a user interface for allowing a user to select between

- (1) a menu of predefined voicemail greetings; and
- (2) recording a new voicemail greeting.

17. The user client of claim 4, wherein said communication device is a mobile communication device.

18. A communication device comprising a user client, said user client being operable to configure said communication device into any one of a plurality of states and further to configure said communication device for communication with a remotely located voicemail system so as to apply settings to said voicemail system.

19. The communication device of claim 18, wherein said applying settings comprises selection of a voicemail reply greeting by said remotely located voicemail system in accordance with a current state of said communication device.

20. The communication device of claim 18, further comprising a data messaging module for communicating with said remotely located voicemail system.

21. The communication device of claim 19, further comprising a communication module configured to communicate to said remote voicemail system any change in state at said communication device so as to control said voicemail system to provide a voicemail greeting according to said current state.

22. The communication device of claim 19, wherein said user client is configured into one of said plurality of states by the user selecting a predefined greeting from a menu of predefined greetings at said communication device.

23. The communication device of claim 19, wherein said user client is configured into one of said plurality of states by the user selecting between (1) a menu of predefined greetings and (2) recording of a new greeting.

24. The communication device of claim 19, wherein one of said states is a real time recording state enterable upon receiving a call from a caller, and wherein said real time state permits a user to record a greeting in real time and to send said recorded greeting to said voicemail system for playback as the voicemail greeting to said caller.

25. The communication device of claim 24, wherein the device is operable to record the greeting in real time whilst delaying forwarding of said call from said communication device to said voicemail system.

26. The communication device of claim 24, wherein the device is operable to forward said recorded greeting as at least one voice packet, together with control data, to said voicemail system for playback as the voicemail reply.

27. The communication device of claim 18, wherein the communication device is a mobile communication device.

28. The communication device of claim 21, wherein said plurality of possible states comprises at least one user definable mode, said user client comprising a user interface for defining of said user definable mode.

29. The communication device of claim 21, wherein said plurality of possible states comprises at least one user selectable mode, said user client comprising a user interface for user selecting of said mode.

30. A server-based subscriber service system comprising:  
an output unit for outputting selected content, and  
a content selection unit, associated with said media output unit for using data representing a current state of a called party handset to select said content for output by said output unit.

31. The server-based subscriber service system of claim 30, wherein said media content is a voicemail greeting.

32. The server-based subscriber service system of claim 30, further comprising a data communication unit associated with said content selection unit for receiving state data from said called party handset from which to determine said current state.

33. The server-based subscriber service system of claim 30, wherein said current state is a real time record state, and further comprising a module operable to receive a real time recorded item for immediate output as said selected item.

34. The server-based subscriber service system of claim 32, wherein said communication unit is operable to receive said state data in at least one of SMS format and USSD format.

35. The server-based subscriber service system of claim 32, wherein said data communication unit is operable to use the push-to-talk protocol to enable receipt of said content together with said state data.

36. The server-based subscriber service of claim 32, wherein said content is video, and said communication unit is operable to use the Push-to-Show protocol to enable receipt of said video item.

37. A method of providing remote control to a server-based subscriber service comprising:

- using a media channel to receive media content for use in said subscriber service,
- using a data channel to receive data concerning said media content, and
- using said received data to select, from said received media content, a content item for use in said subscriber service.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein said received data comprises data received with said media content and data received subsequent to said media content.

39. A handset and server based greeting system comprising:

- a user handset, and
- a server based greeting system located remotely from said handset over a communication network,
  - wherein said server based greeting system comprises:
    - a memory for storing a plurality of greetings associated with a given user handset
  - and;
  - a selector for selecting one of said greetings as a current greeting for playing to a rejected call forwarded from said handset;
- and wherein said handset comprises a message communication module for communicating to said server based greeting system an indicator for instructing said selector to select a given greeting as said current greeting.

40. The handset and server based greeting system of claim 39, wherein said message communication module is further configured to communicate to said server based greeting system an indicator to accept a greeting presently being recorded at said handset as said current message.

41. A handset and server based greeting system comprising:  
a user handset, and a server based greeting system located remotely from said handset over a communication network, and wherein said server based greeting system comprises a memory for storing at least one greeting associated with a given user handset and wherein said handset comprises a message communication module for communicating to said server based greeting system:

- 1) a rejection of a current incoming call and
- 2) an indicator for instructing said selector to select a greeting presently being recorded at said handset as said current message, thereby to allow a realtime recorded greeting to be played as a voicemail greeting to said current incoming call.

42. A user client and server based greeting system comprising:  
a user client for a user handset, and  
a server based greeting system located remotely from said handset over a communication network,  
wherein said server based greeting system comprises:  
a memory for storing a plurality of greetings associated with a given user handset  
and;  
a selector for selecting one of said greetings as a current greeting for playing to a rejected call forwarded from said handset;  
and wherein said user client comprises a message communication module for communicating to said server based greeting system an indicator for instructing said selector to select a given greeting as said current greeting.

43. The user client and server based greeting system of claim 42, wherein said message communication module is further configured to communicate to said server

based greeting system an indicator to accept a greeting presently being recorded at said handset as said current message.

44. A user client and server based greeting system comprising:  
a user client for a user handset, and a server based greeting system located remotely from said handset over a communication network, and wherein said server based greeting system comprises a memory for storing at least one greeting associated with a given user handset and wherein said user client comprises a message communication module for communicating to said server based greeting system:

- 1) a rejection of a current incoming call and
- 2) an indicator for instructing said selector to select a greeting presently being recorded at said handset as said current message, thereby to allow a realtime recorded greeting to be played as a voicemail greeting to said current incoming call.